

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the last paragraph of page 3 with the following paragraph:

It is an object of this invention to provide a tool or accessory adapted for use in combination with standard surgical chest retractors, where the combination of the tool and the retractor results in a lifting retractor device which operates to spread or separate the ribs and chest wall incision to provide greater accessibility to and increased visibility within the interior of the chest cavity, whereby one side of the patient's chest is lifted relative to the other side of the patient's chest, such that separation occurs obliquely rather than just laterally. It is a further object to provide such a device wherein the lifting tool and the chest retractor is an integral device. It is a further object to provide such a device wherein the lifting tool is distinct from the chest retractor. It is a further object to provide such a a ~~[[as]]~~ device wherein the lifting tool performs the oblique lifting movement without recourse to externally mounted lift structures. It is a further object to provide such a device wherein the lifting tool is durable, reusable, easily sterilized, and simple in construction, manufacture and use.